

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action ("OA") dated January 21, 2003. Claims 151-155 and 186-190 have been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Claims 191-195 stand rejected. Applicants hereby amend claim 193 and submit that the amendment does not introduce new matter to this application. Claims 151-155 and 186-195 remain pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 REJECTION OF CLAIM 193

The Examiner rejected claim 193 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, as indefinite (OA, ¶ 3). Applicants respectfully submit that, with the entering of the requested amendment, this rejection is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102(E) REJECTION OF CLAIMS 191-195

The Examiner rejected Claims 191-195 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,765,152 to Erickson ["Erickson"] (OA, ¶4). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that claims 191-195 are patentable over Erickson.

CLAIM 191 IS PATENTABLE OVER ERICKSON

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner cites to various sections of Erickson as allegedly showing all of the aspects of claim 191. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Erickson does not teach or suggest at least "assigning a potential user or recipient to a class, the assignment being based at least in part on information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content" as recited by claim 191. Instead, Erickson discloses the initiation of authorized transactions when "the user uses a template-like interface to request auxiliary permissions." (Col. 20, lines 55-60.) "If the terms are accepted, a digital certificate is issued containing the auxiliary

permissions for that specific derivative use and encrypted to that specific user.” (Col. 20, lines 64-67.) If the user tries to access more than the permissions granted (an unauthorized operation), the interface will display the permissions “required by the [unauthorized] operation.” (Col. 21, lines 4-8.) Erickson fails to describe how users are assigned to a class, much less that such an assignment is based on a user’s prior use of content. Instead, Erickson focuses on the process each user must take to gain permissions and the steps taken if the user tries to circumvent the allowed permissions. Erickson does not make assignments based on a potential user or recipient’s previous use of content, but rather each “user uses a template-like interface to request auxiliary permissions.” (Col. 20, lines 58-59.) Thus clearly, Erickson does not show the step of “assigning a potential user or recipient to a class, the assignment being based at least in part on information regarding the potential user or recipient’s previous use of content,” as recited by claim 191 of the present application.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS 192-195 ARE PATENTABLE OVER ERICKSON

Claims 192-195 are dependent from claim 191, and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 191.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that claims 191-195 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art of record. Applicants therefore request the Examiner’s reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of claims all pending.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Karna J. Nisewaner at (650) 849-6643.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS

193. (New) A method as in claim 191, in which the information regarding the potential user or recipient's previous use of content comprises information regarding the type of content the potential user or recipient has previously used.

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